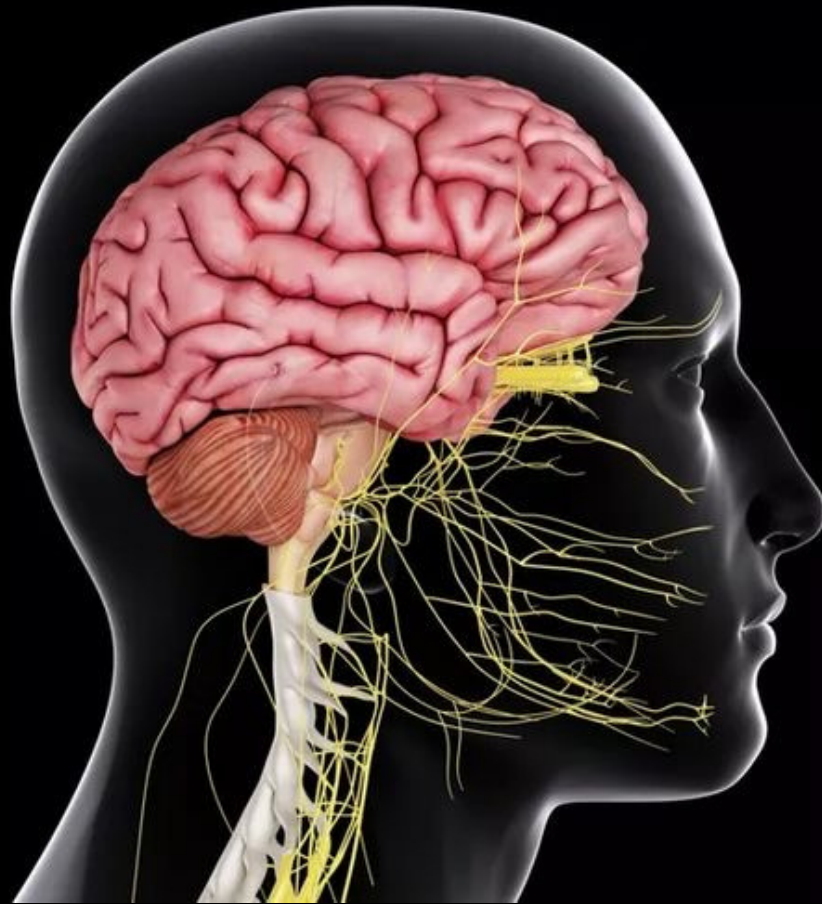




CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM



SUBJECT : Pharmacology

LEC NO. : 6

DONE BY : Feras Atieh

وَقُلْ رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا



Anxiolytics and Hypnotics

Pharmacology and Toxicology
Central Nervous System Module
Third Year Medical Students
Tareq Saleh
Faculty of Medicine
The Hashemite University



هلاً احنا كلنا بننصاب ب anxiety بس هاي ال anxiety ما بتحتاج علاج ولا دواء ويتكون جزء من حياتنا اليومية زي واحد إجاله خبر حزين، واحد عليه امتحان وهكذا بس ال Anxiety disorders الهم مواصفات criteria for the diagnosis described state of chronic anxiety وغالباً هممة بكونو

Anxiety

- Anxiety is an unpleasant state of tension, apprehension or uneasiness (a fear that arises from either a known or an unknown source). **Anxiety usually is associated with physical symptoms**
- Physical symptoms of anxiety are a result of sympathetic activation: **tachycardia, sweating, trembling and palpitations**).
- Anxiety disorders include: **Generalized anxiety disorder, panic disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, phobias**, etc.



Anxiolytics: Classes of Drugs

BENZODIAZEPINES

Alprazolam XANAX
Chlordiazepoxide LIBRIUM
Clonazepam KLONOPIN
Clorazepate TRANXENE
Diazepam VALIUM, DIASTAT
Estazolam
Flurazepam DALMANE
Lorazepam ATIVAN
Midazolam VERSED
Oxazepam
Quazepam DORAL
Temazepam RESTORIL
Triazolam HALCION

BENZODIAZEPINE ANTAGONIST

Flumazenil ROMAZICON

OTHER ANXIOLYTIC DRUGS

Antidepressants VARIOUS (SEE CHAPTER 10)
Buspirone BUSPAR

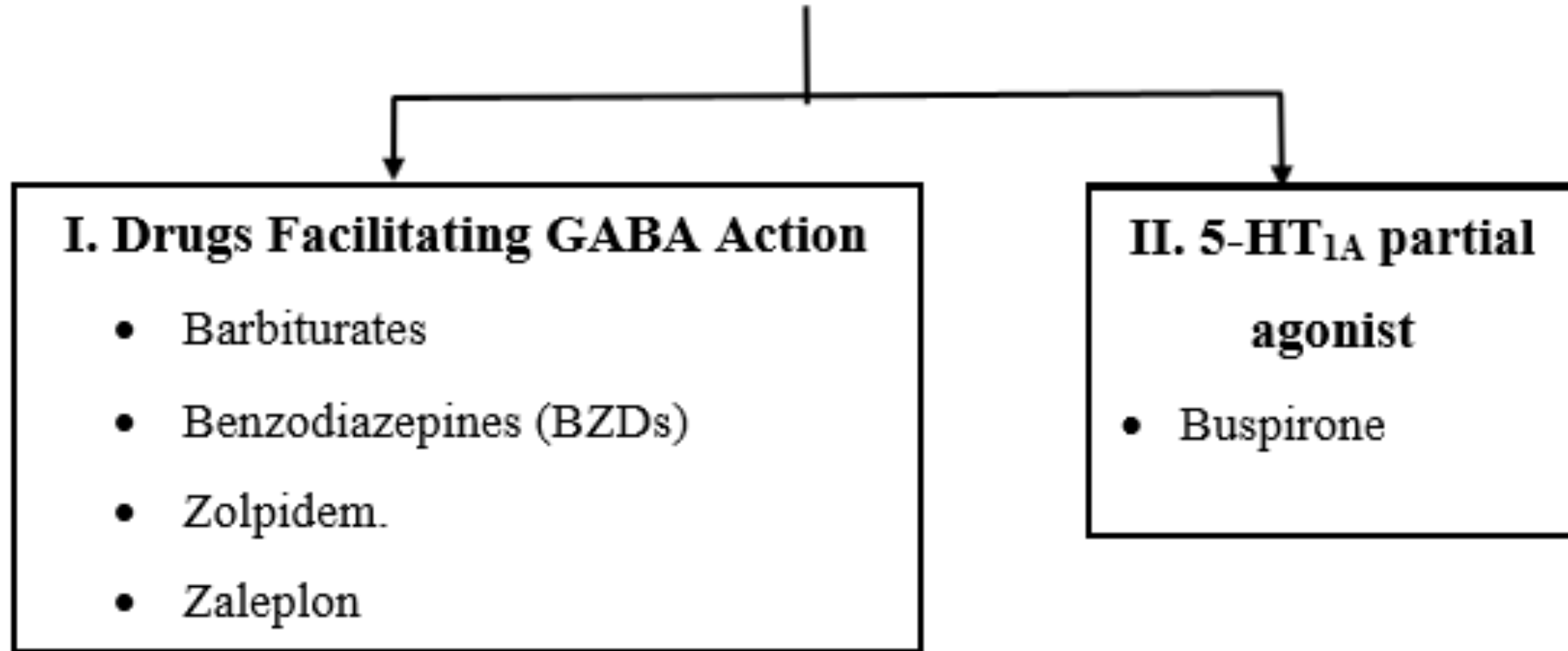
BARBITURATES

Amobarbital AMYTAL
Pentobarbital NEMBUTAL
Phenobarbital LUMINAL SODIUM
Secobarbital SECONAL
Thiopental PENTOTHAL

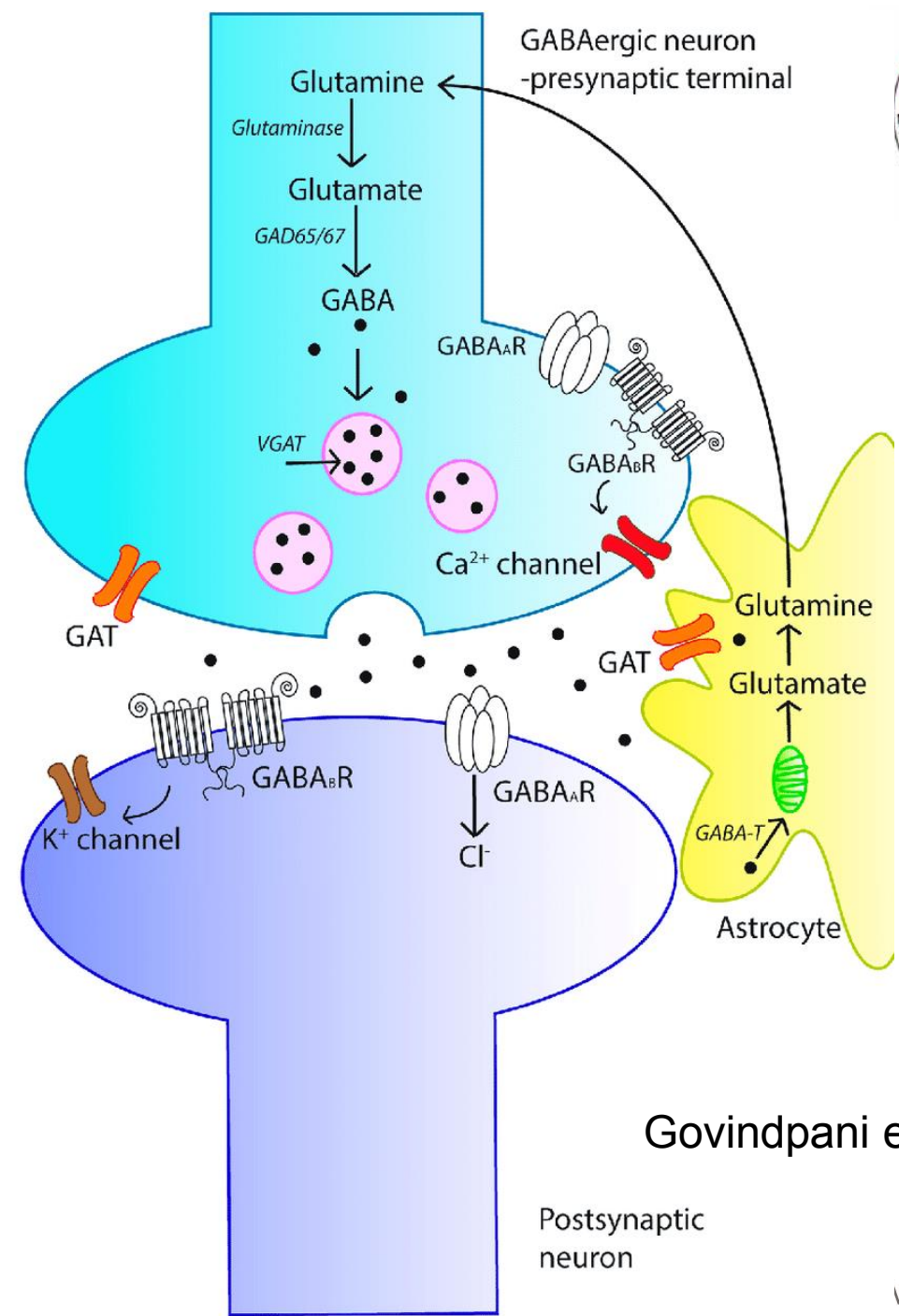
OTHER HYPNOTIC AGENTS

Antihistamines VARIOUS (SEE CHAPTER 30)
Doxepin SILENOR
Eszopiclone LUNESTA
Ramelteon ROZEREM
Zaleplon SONATA
Zolpidem AMBIEN, INTERMEZZO,
ZOLPIMIST

Classification According to Mechanism of Action



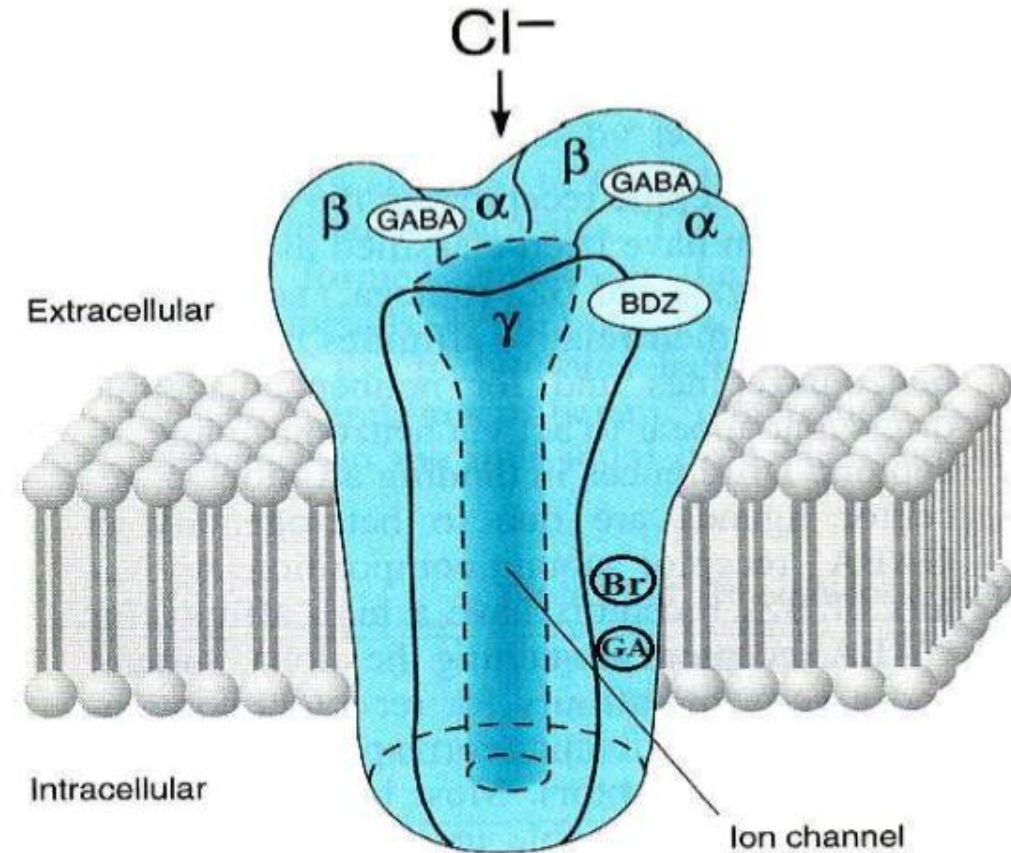
The GABAergic Synapse



Govindpani et al, 2017

GABA Receptors

- Receptors for the **inhibitory neurotransmitter** γ -aminobutyric acid (GABA).
- Two main receptors types:
 - **GABA_A receptors:** ligand-gated ion channels (*ionotropic*) **chloride** بدخل
 - **GABA_B receptors:** G-protein-coupled receptors (*metabotropic*)

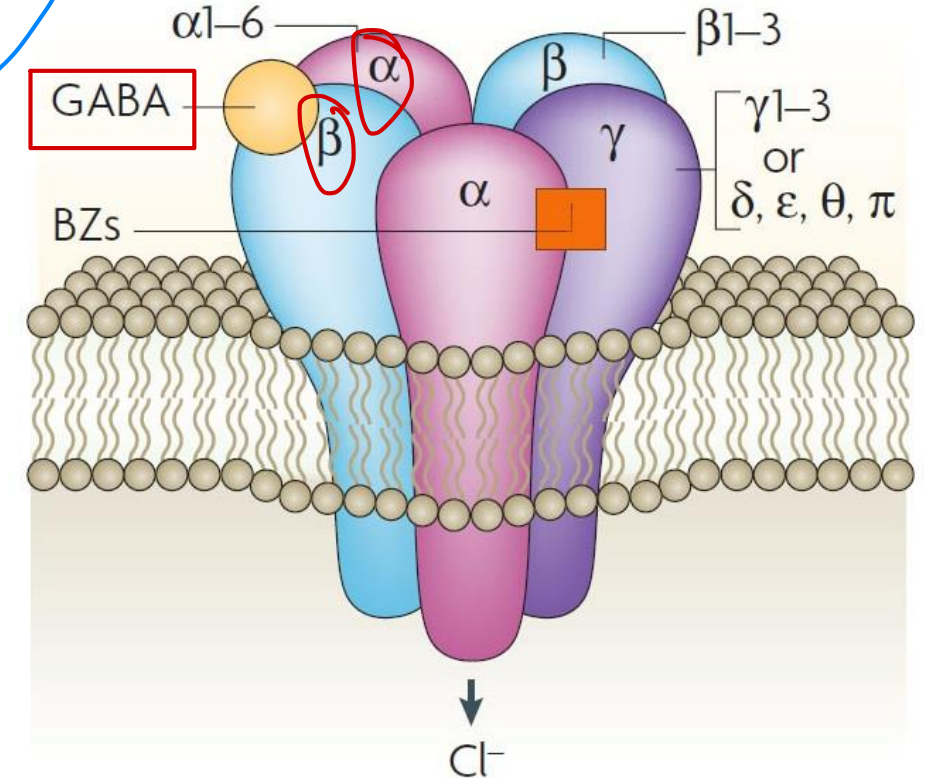


GABA_A Receptor

يعني يتكون من 5 subunits
(2α, 2β, 1γ)

- pentamer formed of 3 different types of subunits (two α, two β and one γ) surrounding a Cl⁻ ion channel.
- The GABA binding site is at the interface between α and β subunits.
- Binding of 2 GABA molecules triggers the opening of the central ion channel allowing for chloride influx.
- The influx of chloride → hyperpolarization → decreases action potentials (neurotransmission).

Most common



١- هلاً ال 5 subunits اللي بيعملو ال GabA,A receptor الهم أنواع يا بكونو ألفا يا بكونو بيتا يا بكونو

جاما ويرضه كل وحدة منهم الها أنواع يعني في عنا
6 different types of alpha
3 different type of beta
3 different type of gamma
بيختلفو بال structure

٢- فإحنا هلاً ممكن نعمل different combinations of GABA,A Receptor يعني GABA,A
Receptor اللي فيو alpha 1 subunit شوي بيختلف عن GABA,A Receptor اللي فيو alpha 2
subunit وشوي بأثر بيختلف عال function

٣- إحنا بنحتاج 2 molecules of GABA بيربطو على receptor binding side موجود بين الألفا والبيتا
حتى تفتح ال Central ion channel ويدخل ال chloride

يعني بإختصار إحنا عنا GABA,A Receptor بتكون من Subunits 2alpha,2beta,2 gamma
ومكان ارتباط ال GABA بكون بين الألفا والبيتا



Benzodiazepines



Not Agonist

The agonist binds at the same binding site results in activation

different site but result in the activation بربطو على

Benzodiazepines

يعني هذول الأدوية بتربط على نفس ال receptor بس different binding site بين الألفا والجاما بدل البيتا

Mechanism of action:

- Benzodiazepines are allosteric modulators of GABA_A receptors.
- They bind to distinct, high-affinity site from the GABA-binding site located at the interface between the α and γ subunits.
- These binding sites are labeled as benzodiazepine (BZ) receptors.
- CNS BZ receptors:
 - **BZ₁** includes α_1 subunits (mediate sedation, hypnosis, amnesia and antiepileptic effects)
 - **BZ₂** includes α_2 subunits (anxiolytic and muscle relaxant effects)

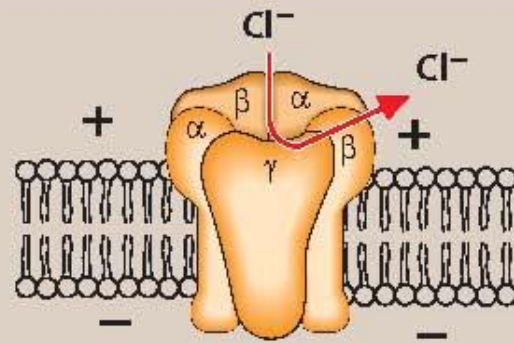


Benzodiazepines

Mechanism of action:

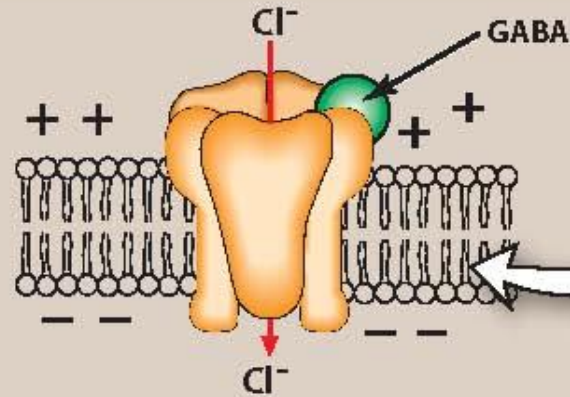
- Binding of benzodiazepines to the BZ receptors on the GABA_A receptor complex → increases affinity of GABA to bind to its receptors. This increases the frequency of opening of Cl⁻ channel → facilitating the inhibitory effects of GABA.

A Receptor empty
(no agonists)



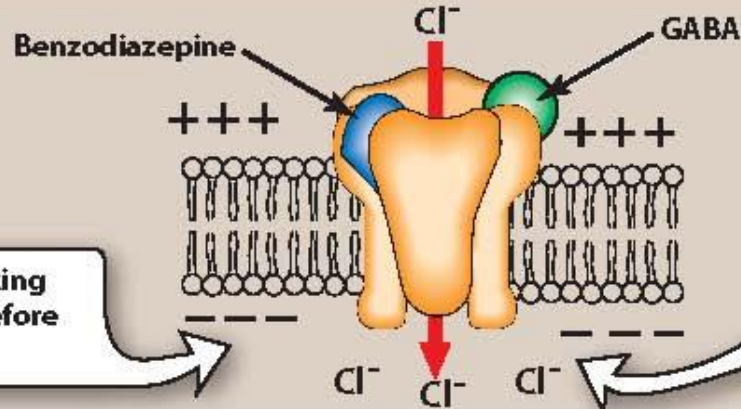
Empty receptor is inactive, and the coupled chloride channel is closed.

B Receptor binding GABA



Binding of GABA causes the chloride ion channel to open, leading to hyperpolarization of the cell.

C Receptor binding GABA and benzodiazepine



Entry of Cl^- hyperpolarizes the cell, making it more difficult to depolarize, and therefore reduces neural excitability.

Binding of GABA is enhanced by benzodiazepine, resulting in a greater entry of chloride ion.



Benzodiazepines

Actions: Suppress CNS functions

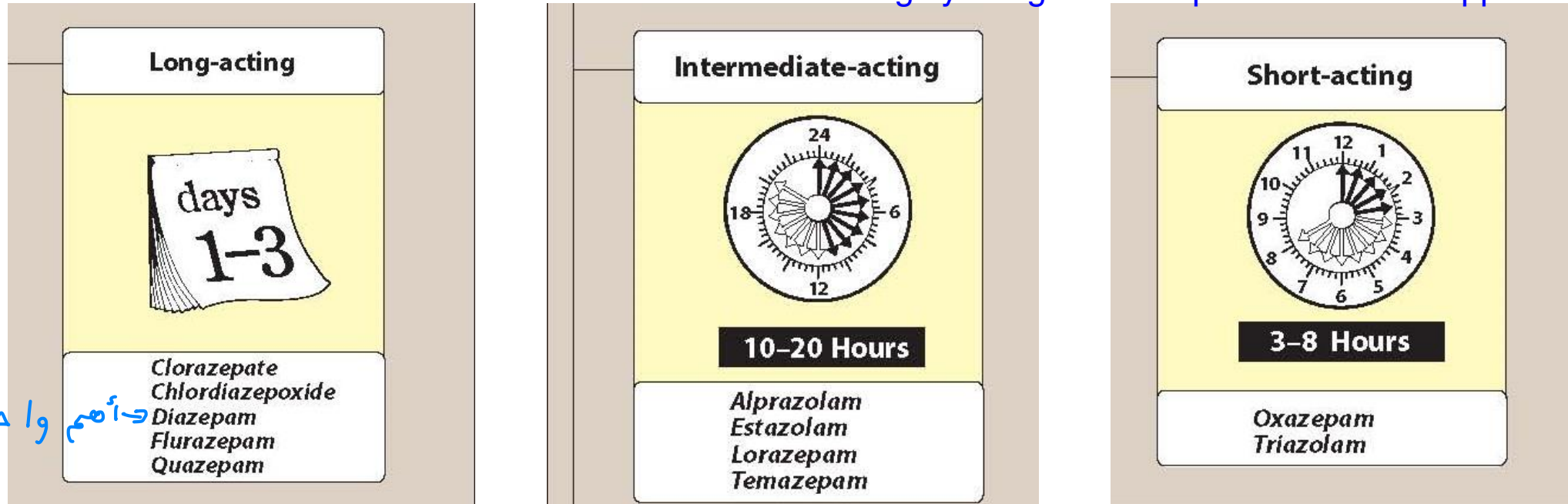
- **Reduction of anxiety:** through α_2 subunit containing GABA_A receptors.
- **Sedative/hypnotic:** through α_1 subunit containing GABA_A receptors.
↳ Artificially induced sleep
- **Anterograde amnesia:** through α_1 subunit containing GABA_A receptors.
- **Anticonvulsant:** through α_1 subunit containing GABA_A receptors.
- **Muscle relaxant:** through α_2 subunit containing GABA_A receptors.

هلاً بناءً على Actions تعاونهم بقدر أستعملهم ك therapeutic uses مثل

- 1-anti seizure effect
- 2-treat anxiety
- 3-relax muscles with patients with severe muscle rigidity
- 4-insomnia

Benzodiazepines: Duration of Action

هلاً هذول الأدوية not first line treatment لأي استعمال من الاستعمالات اللي حكيهاها فوق لإنهم highly dangerous+dependence can happen really fast



واحد

Duration of action كلهم نفس ال effect بس بيختلفو بال duration of action

- determine therapeutic uses (**half-life is very important**)
- **with some benzodiazepines, the clinical duration of action does NOT correlate with the actual half-life** Becuase they are stored in fat tissues (very lipid soluble)

فممکن يخذك انه ال half life is not equal to the actual effect



Benzodiazepines

1-shouldn't be 1st line for anxiety

2-period of use shouldn't be longer than 2 weeks

Therapeutic uses:

• Anxiety disorders:

- Panic disorder, GAD, OCD, social anxiety disorder, phobias.
- Anxiety related to depression or schizophrenia.
- **ONLY** for severe anxiety (NOT for the stress of everyday life).
- Longer-acting drugs are preferred: lora-; clona-; and diazepam.
- **Tolerance:** anxiolytic effects < sedative/hypnotic.

Benzodiazepines

Therapeutic uses:

- **Sleep disorders (insomnia)**

- Decrease latency to sleep onset AND Increase stage II of non-rapid eye movement (REM) sleep.

- commonly used drugs:

1. **Temazepam:** intermediate-acting – given 1-2 hours before bedtime – Best for frequent awakening.

2. **Triazolam:** short-acting – best for inability to go/stay asleep – Rebound insomnia

(using long-acting like flurazepam may result in excessive daytime sedation)

ما بنستخدم long acting لأنه حنخليه يسطل زيادة عن اللزوم ثاني يوم



Benzodiazepines

Therapeutic uses:

- **Amnesia**

- used as an adjunct to anesthesia: to relief unpleasant, surgery-induced anxiety

- midazolam** is often used for this purpose

Benzodiazepines

Therapeutic uses:

- Seizures

- Clonazepam used as adjunctive therapy for certain types of seizures.

- Lora-; and diazepam used for the treatment of *status epilepticus* (given IV) and alcohol-withdrawal associated seizures.

(1st line drug) ←



Benzodiazepines

Therapeutic uses:

- **Muscular disorders**

- used for skeletal muscle spasms

- used for spasticity associated with multiple sclerosis and cerebral palsy

Benzodiazepines

Pharmacokinetics

• Absorption

- highly lipophilic

CNS distribution? Fat? Pregnancy? Severe withdrawal to fetus because it cross the placental barrier

لأنه البيبي يكون dependant أصلا اذا كانت الأم chronic abuser زي ال opioids

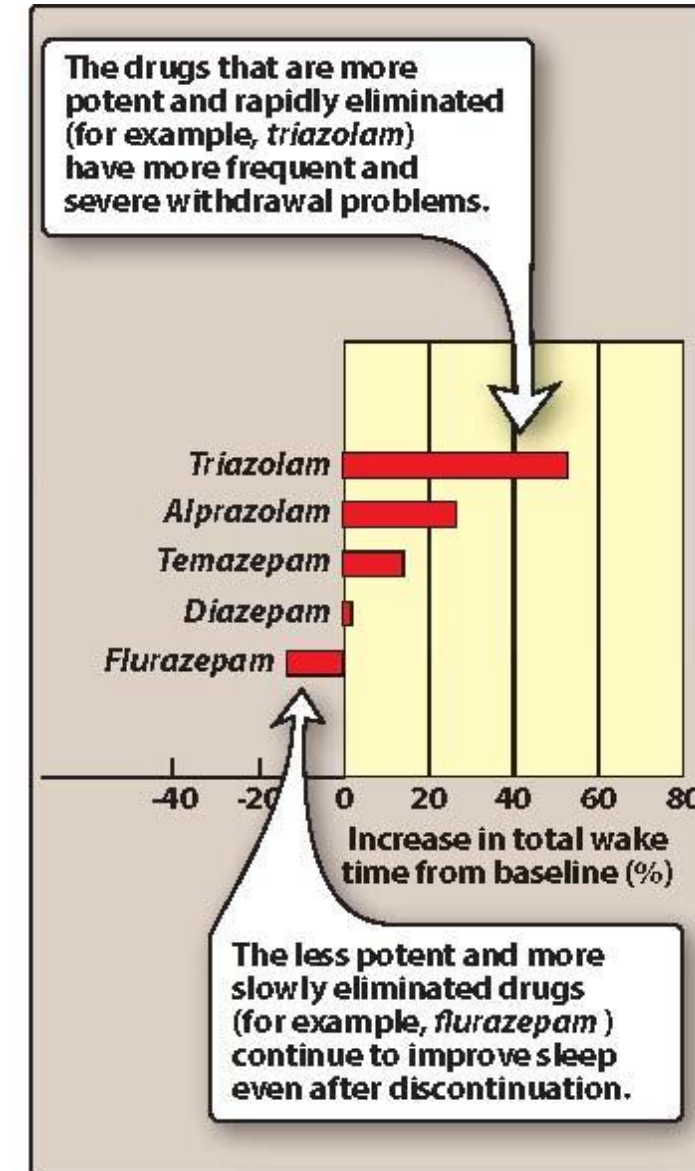
• Metabolism

- metabolized by hepatic microsomal system
- mostly the metabolites are also active
- excreted in the urine

Benzodiazepines

Dependence

- Psychological and physical dependence can develop rapidly
- Used for short periods of time
- Abrupt discontinuation →
WITHDRAWAL: لازم بالتدریج
 - confusion, anxiety, agitation, rebound insomnia, tension and seizures.
 - withdrawal happens more with short-acting



Benzodiazepines

Adverse effects

هم يبدوه الرقعة

- Drowsiness and sedation

- Driving

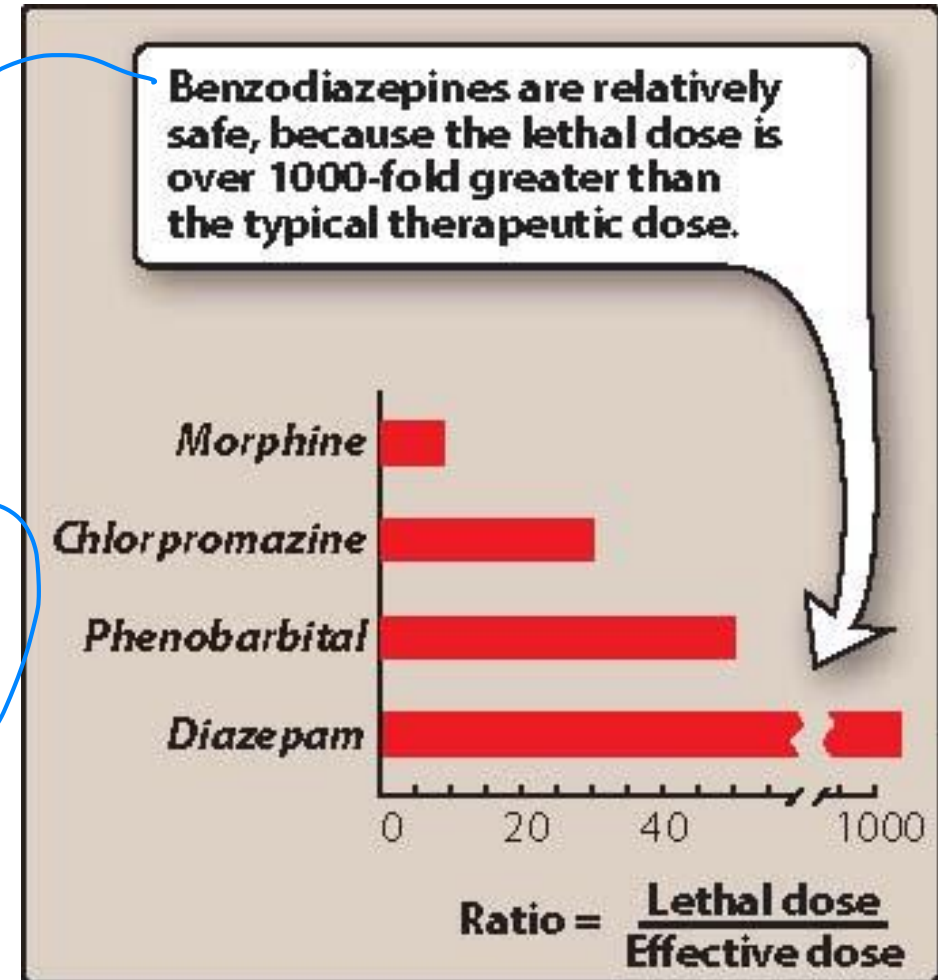
- Cognitive impairment

- Combination with other sedatives can be dangerous:

- Alcohol, barbiturates, anesthetics, ...

- Anterograde amnesia

- Impaired ability to learn new information.





Benzodiazepine Antagonist: antidote

- **Flumazenil**

- GABA receptor antagonist
- used for benzodiazepine toxicity/overdose
- IV only
- rapid onset, short duration of action
- may precipitate withdrawal in dependent patients

Other anxiolytics: antidepressants

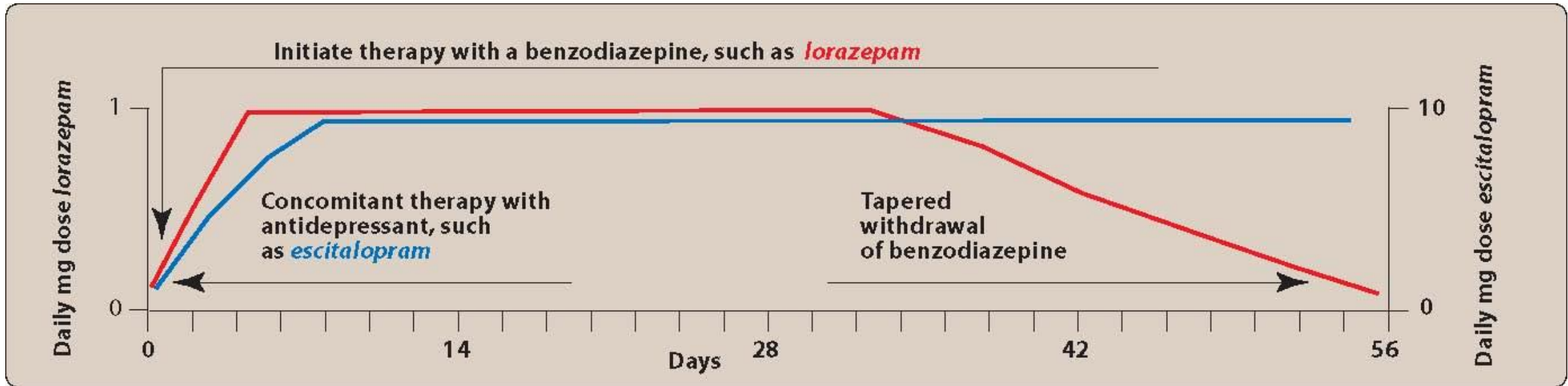
- Remember: many antidepressants are used to treat anxiety.
- **SSRIs** (escitalopram, paroxetine) and **SNRIs** (duloxetine, venlafaxine) are **FIRST LINE** to treat anxiety.
- Often used with a benzodiazepine initially (first 4-6 weeks) In combination with SSRI and SNRI

ليش ما بستعملهم لحالهم؟

لأنهم بقعدو فترة طويلة تيبليشو تأثير

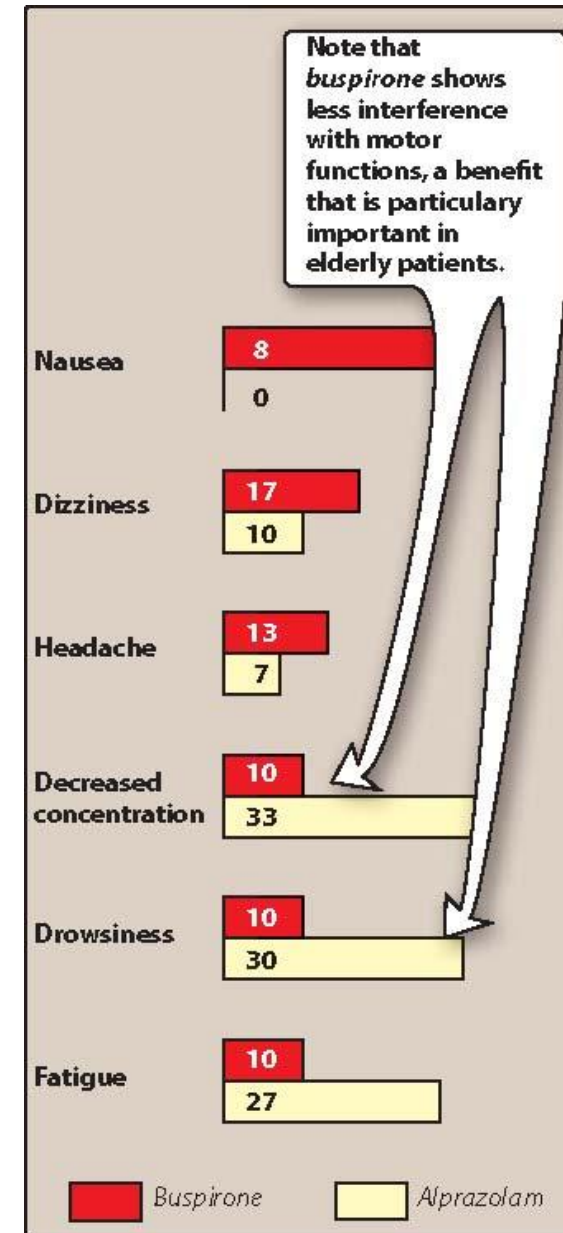
بعدين بعمله gradual discontinuation بكون وقتها ال SSRI اشتغل

Other anxiolytics: Antidepressants



Other anxiolytics: Buspirone

- Useful for the chronic treatment of generalized anxiety disorder.
- Ineffective for short-term “on demand” “as needed” treatment of acute anxiety: slow onset of action.
- Effect mediated by 5-HT_{1A} receptors.
- No anti-seizure or muscle relaxant properties
- No dependence Great alternative for Benzodiazepines





Barbiturates

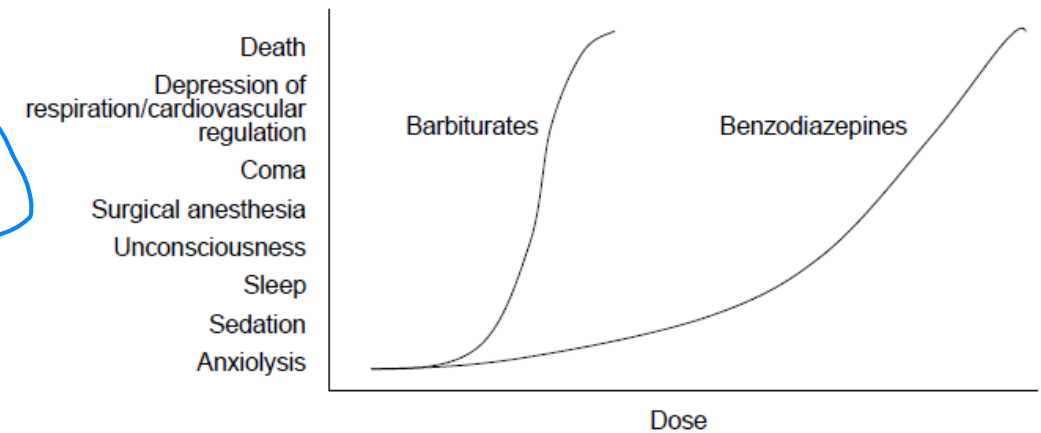
Barbiturates

Overview:

- Old
- Largely replaced by benzodiazepines as sedative/hypnotics
- ❑ Induce tolerance/dependence/withdrawal/lethal overdose >>>> benzodiazepines
- Some still in use but the majority are not
 - example: thiopental is a short-acting barbiturate have been used to induce anesthesia.

Benzodiazepines أسوأ من Barbiturates

Dose-dependent effects of classic sedative-hypnotics





Barbiturates

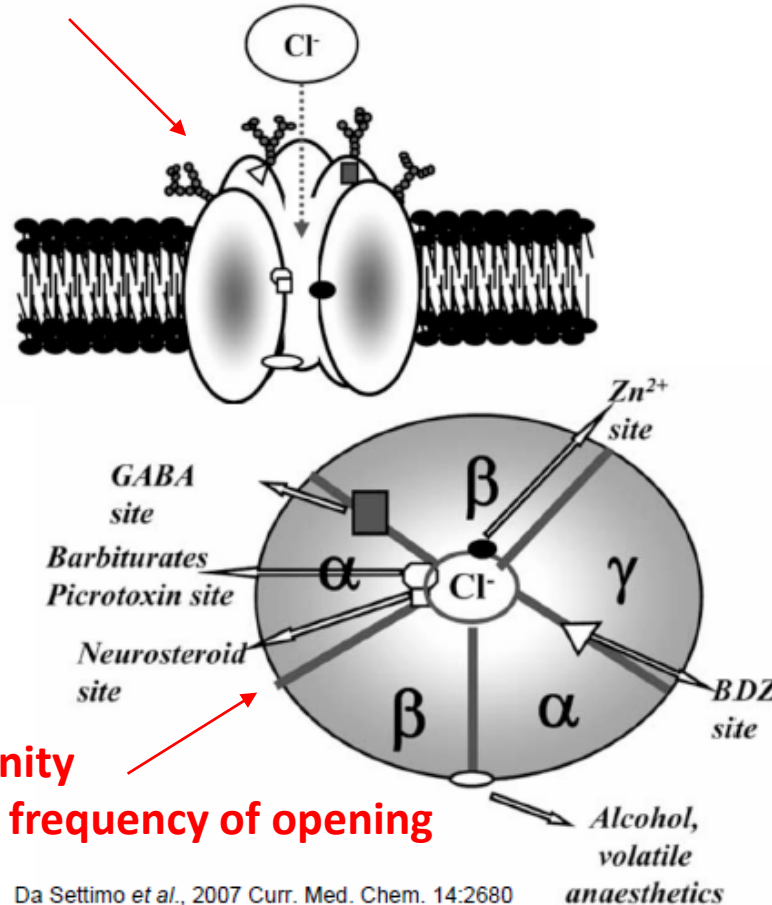
Mechanism of action:

- Site of action: GABA_A receptors.
- Binding site: different from benzodiazepines
- Barbiturates potentiate GABA action on chloride entry by prolonging the duration of Cl channel opening.

Barbiturates vs benzodiazepines

The γ -aminobutyric acid (GABA_A) receptor

prolonging the duration

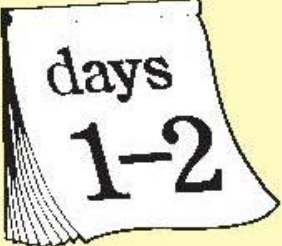


Barbiturates bind to site in ion channel, increasing Cl⁻ channel open time. Can activate channel at high concentrations.

Benzodiazepines increases affinity of GABA binding site for its ligand. In the absence of GABA, benzodiazepines have no detectable effect on receptor function.

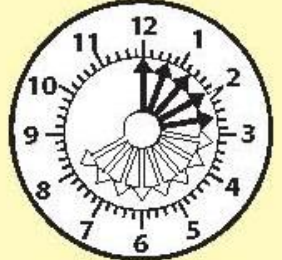
Barbiturates

Long-acting



Phenobarbital

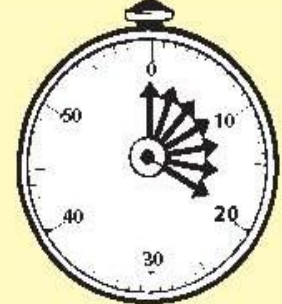
Short-acting



3-8 Hours

Pentobarbital
Secobarbital
Amobarbital

Ultra-short-acting



20 Minutes

Thiopental

Barbiturates

Actions:

1- CNS depression:

- ❑ low doses → sedation
- ❑ High doses → hypnosis >>> anesthesia
- ❑ Higher doses → coma and DEATH!

2- Respiratory depression



Barbiturates

Therapeutic uses:

1. **Anesthesia:** e.g., thiopental for induction of anesthesia (not anymore).
2. **Anticonvulsant:** e.g., phenobarbital for refractory seizures.
3. **Sedative/hypnotic:** for insomnia (no longer accepted)

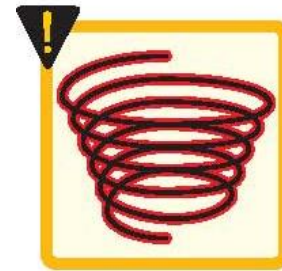
Barbiturates

Adverse effects:

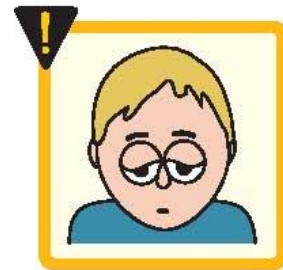
Barbiturates are contraindicated in patients with acute intermittent porphyria



Potential for addiction



Vertigo



Drowsiness



Tremors



Nausea



Enzyme induction

severe

Withdrawal can result in death

Overdose can result in death



Other Hypnotics: Zolpidem

Alternative for benzodiazepines

- Not a benzodiazepine, but the same mechanism of action (on BZ₁)
- short half-life (2-3 hrs), rapid onset of action.
- Most commonly prescribed drug for insomnia in the US.
- Decrease sleep latency, no effect on sleep.
- Adverse effect: impaired performance in the morning, driving, and dependence. ممکن يعمل dependance بس أقل من benzodiazepines



Other Hypnotics: Ramelteon

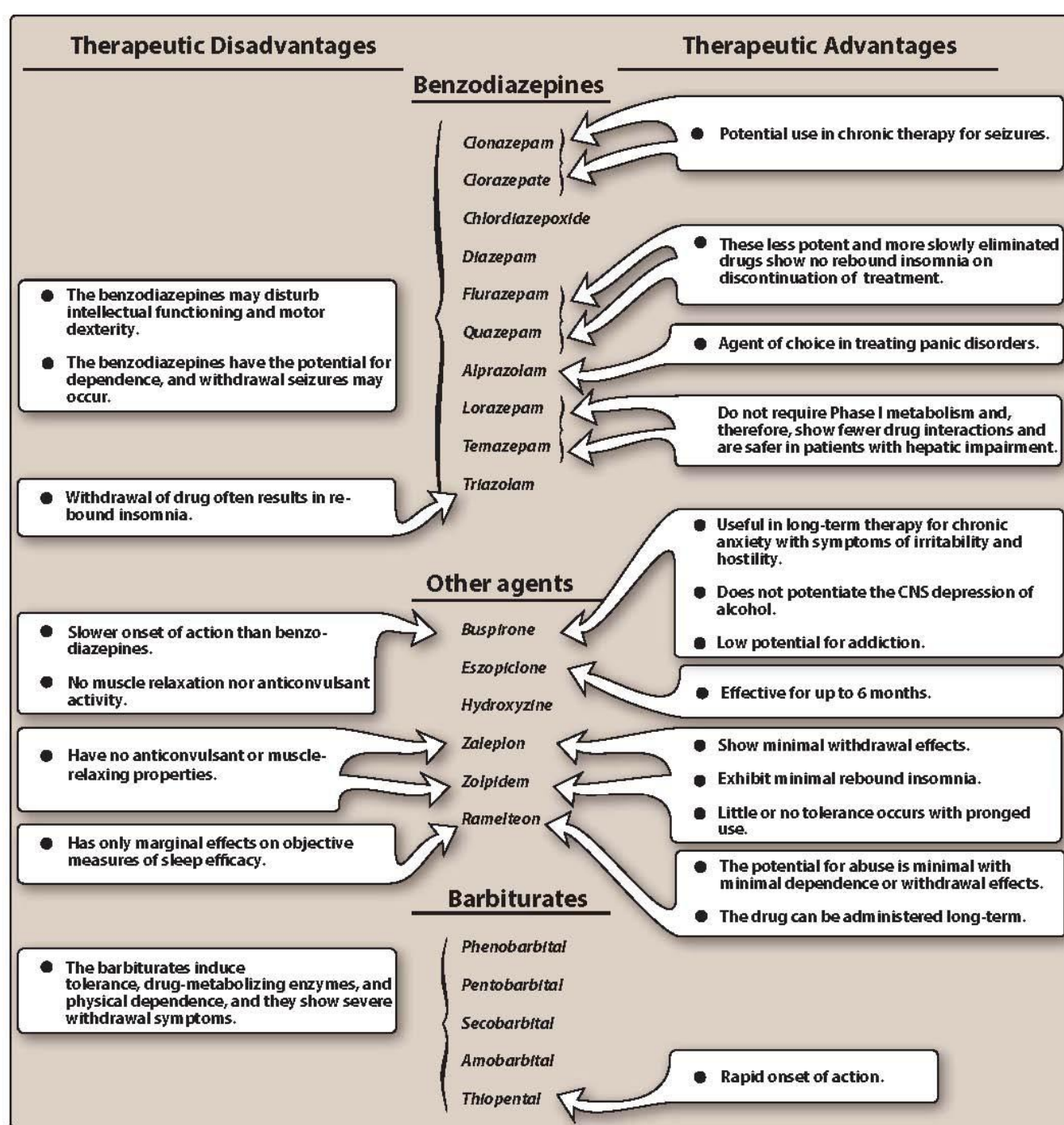
أحسن من اللي قبليه

- Selective agonist: melatonin receptors 1 and 2
- Indicated for the treatment of insomnia (decreases sleep latency)
- No abuse potential/dependence/withdrawal



Other Hypnotics: Over-The-Counter

- **Antihistamines:**
 - Insomnia (mild).
 - Diphenhydramine.
 - Chlorphenamine (Allerfin).





Summary of Clinical Uses

- Benzodiazepines are indicated only in severe anxiety or insomnia.
- Drug therapy should be started with a small oral dose for a limited period (less than 3 weeks for insomnia) to avoid drug abuse and dependence
- Gradual termination of therapy should be done to avoid withdrawal.
- *Longer-acting* drugs are preferred as *anxiolytics* ...*shorter-acting* as *hypnotics*.
- Most benzodiazepines are metabolized in liver → dose adjustment is required in liver cirrhosis to avoid accumulation to toxic levels specially of long acting agents and those metabolized to active metabolites such as diazepam.